

## **Advisory Committee for Acceptance and Diversity**

**Third meeting, February 6, 2014, 7 pm, T.C. Passios Building, Room 13.**

In attendance:

Gregory Berthiaume	School Committee	present
Michael Mackin	School Committee	not present
Robert Ebersole	Board of Selectmen	present
Charlene Stephens	Community-at-large	present
Richard Beardmore	Community-at-large Alternate	present
Nicole Hennessy	Student Representative	present
Casey Voyer	Student Alternate	not present
Elizabeth Rawlinson	Parent	present
Darruene Vann	Parent	not present
Paul Bertrand	Parent Alternate	present

Also present, Loxi Calmes, Superintendent of Schools.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Charlene Stephens.

### **Approval of meeting minutes**

The committee voted to approve the minutes of the January 30, 2014 meeting

### **Brainstorming activity**

Charlene distributed the results of the brainstorming activity from our last meeting regarding "What steps are needed to show that the school has a diverse and accepting environment?"

### **Mission of the Committee/Mission of Efforts going forward beyond the term of this committee**

Three members provided their take on this task – Elizabeth Rawlinson, Richard Beardmore and Paul Bertrand. These were presented to the group and it was agreed to combine those by Elizabeth and Paul, and have Dick's to be for implementation. This will be put together by Bob Ebersole and reviewed at our next meeting.

To foster a community that understands, values, protects, and celebrates the needs of all individuals regardless of race, color, creed, mental, physical abilities, sexual orientation and socio-economic level. Our goal is to expose students to diverse and multicultural environments through education and community wide activities, and to help students, faculty and staff become advocates for multicultural and social awareness and acceptance.

To encourage and elicit socially responsible behavior that reflects acceptance of all people.

In light of this consideration, we will investigate:

- Perceptions and attitudes of school community members (student, faculty and staff, administration, and family)
- Curricular and extra-curricular programming aimed at issues of multiculturalism, and
- Possible additions/deletions of school-based activities with the purpose of celebrating cultural diversity in the schools and community.

It was noted that there are many efforts ongoing in the schools with students, faculty and administration. The effort of this committee is to provide additional information and we may overlap some of those efforts, but not duplicate them.

#### **Homework for next meeting**

Each member will identify items on the brainstorming list that may have a financial cost that will be funded either by the school budget or some other source such as grants. We started a discussion on what would be included in the job description for a coordinator – whether a new person, or duties added to an existing staff. It was noted that there had been staff for this in the past, but it was eliminated by budget cuts. Other expenses include costs for speakers, supplies, and educational costs for faculty.

See attached listing of brainstorming results from the meeting on January 30<sup>th</sup>.

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.**

#### **Upcoming Meeting Schedule:**

February 27, 2014

March 13 and 27, 2014